

## ***CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS***

### **I. IDENTIFICATION**

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** An illness caused by the protozoan *Cryptosporidium parvum* and characterized by diarrhea, abdominal cramps, anorexia, low - grade fever, nausea and vomiting. Infected persons may be asymptomatic. The disease can be prolonged and life-threatening in severely immunocompromised persons.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Laboratory confirmation.
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**
- Detection of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts in stool by microscopic examination, **OR**
  - Detection of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts in small bowel biopsy specimens or intestinal fluid, **OR**
  - Detection of *Cryptosporidium* oocyst or sporozoite antigens by immunodiagnostic methods, e.g., ELISA, **OR**
  - Detection by PCR techniques when routinely available, **OR**
  - Demonstration of reproductive stages in tissue preparations.
- D. **KENTUCKY CASE DEFINITION:** Symptomatic and asymptomatic cases that are laboratory confirmed.

### **II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES**

- A. **KENTUCKY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REQUIRES URGENT NOTIFICATION:** REPORT TO THE LOCAL OR STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT **IMMEDIATELY** upon recognition of a case or suspected case in a time period not greater than 24 hours. If health department personnel cannot be contacted directly, notification shall be made by electronic submission or by telephone to the emergency number of the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning: **1-888-973-7678**.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUESTED:**
1. Kentucky Reportable Disease Form – EPID 200 (Rev. Jan./03).
- C. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:**
- Assess case for association with high-risk setting (e.g., day care, food handling, or health care provider).
  - Exclude symptomatic patients from food handling until asymptomatic, and from direct care of hospitalized and institutionalized patients until asymptomatic.

- Conduct cluster investigation if two or more cases occur in a close geographic or temporal setting or if cases share a common potential exposure (e.g., recreational water, community event, farm-animal-related exposure).

### **III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION**

- A. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH: 502-564-3261.
- B. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, FOOD SAFETY AND COSMETICS BRANCH: 502-564-7181.
- C. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, DIVISION OF LABORATORY SERVICES: 502-564-4446.

### **IV. RELATED REFERENCES**

1. Chin, James, ed. CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS. In: Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 17<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2000: 134-137.
2. Pickering LK, ed. Cryptosporidiosis. In: 2000 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious diseases. 25<sup>th</sup> ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2000: 223-224.